SCS CC 2882

P780021-0257

DICK CLARK
IOWA

(493)

AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY
FOREIGN RELATIONS
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

February 14, 1978

SCC

The Honorable Cyrus Vance
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to call attention to the plight of Grace and Timothy Stoen, whose young son is being held under rather bizarre circumstances in Guyana. Given the rather unstable emotional condition of the person, Reverend Jim Jones, who is holding the son, there is reason to be concerned about the child's welfare.

The Stoen case is well known to the Department of State (the Bureau of Consular Affairs), and I won't go into detail here. In a nutshell, the Stoens became involved with a religious group in California headed by the Reverend Jones, traveled to Guyana to join a religious retreat there, and subsequently left the child in Jones' care. Later when they came to their senses, the Stoens tried to get the child back, but were rebuffed by Reverend Jones.

I understand the political sensitivities involved, particularly because both the Stoens and Reverend Jones are American citizens, and the case is before the courts. But there is also an obvious human consideration, and I think the Department should do whatever it can to help out.

Sincerely,

Dick Clark

DC/bvv

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY _____ DATE _____
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE _____
TS AUTH. _____ REASON(S) _____
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE ☐
EXCISE ☐
FOIA or FOI EXEMPTIONS _____

11